



YEAR 10

# Curriculum News

Spring Term 2012

Welcome to the Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter. The departments that teach your child have contributed to the newsletter to give you information about what you can expect your child to be studying this term at St Mary's Catholic School.

In Year 10 **R.S.** we complete aspects of Community & Tradition, including the role of a parish priest and the role of Mary in Catholic worship. We then study the next unit on Worship & Celebration covering the sacraments, with special emphasis on the Mass and how other Christians celebrate the Last Supper events. Other topics which we look at are Features of a Catholic Church and the importance of Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

In **English**, In English all Y10 classes are coming to the end of their Controlled Assessments leading to preparation for their English Language GCSE examination in June. By the end of Y10 students will have completed their English Language GCSE and will then begin their English Literature GCSE after their exams.

In **Maths** Year 10 are well into their first year of the GCSE course. During this term the students will be looking at a variety of topics depending on their set. Some examples are Collecting and Displaying Data, Pattern and Sequences, Plotting Graphs, 2D and 3D Shapes, Perimeter and Area, Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Formulae and Linear Equations, Simultaneous Equations and Probability. The Higher sets (1 to 4) will generally be covering more of the challenging concepts and techniques than the Foundation sets (5 and 6). However, the coverage of Higher GCSE syllabus will still vary amongst the top four sets in terms of pace and challenge as there will also be a slight variance of the coverage of Foundation GCSE Syllabus between sets 5 and 6. All six sets will be following the Edexcel Examination Board throughout the course in a linear manner with a final examination, consisting of two papers (calculator & non-calculator), at the end of year 11. Assessment points at the end of each half term will indicate current grade and progression.

Year 10 **BTEC Science** Students will be completing the third unit of work and will then have time to go over the three units they have completed to improve them before they are moderated for the final time.

Year 10 - Students studying for 3 separate **Triple Science** GCSE subjects will complete modules on Life on Earth, Food Matters and Radioactive Materials.

Students studying for the **Double Science** GCSE will complete their module exam in January and will then complete modules on Materials, Keeping Healthy and Radiation and Life.

Year 10 **GCSE Business Studies** groups are currently studying how to turn business start up ideas into reality. Topics covered this term are mainly financial documents such as sales forecasts and cash flow forecasts.

**GCSE Art** students will be working on their 'Stacked' themed coursework. Students will consolidate direct observational studies from the 'Museum of Zoology' trip into their sketchbook. Throughout the year different techniques including Printmaking and Sculpture will be introduced. All students are expected to spend at least one hour (each week) at home working independently on practical tasks or research. This term students will begin planning and working on their final pieces. Students will finish Unit 1 'Stacked' including a final piece, they will be given regular deadlines to help manage their workload.

The after school GCSE Art club will run every Tuesday and Wednesday afterschool. If students require any extra assistance or access to facilities, this can be negotiated with their subject teachers. We offer an open door policy at lunchtimes and actively welcome motivated Art students.

In **D & T** the Year 10 Product Design pupils are gaining experiences in all areas of Design using a variety of materials they have not worked with previously. They have all developed ceramic tea light holders which are in the process of being glazed and fired and they are now extending their textile skills learning how to make a fashion toile from their design work. As the course progresses they will be looking at wood joining methods and how to make a turntable in metal. The department offers all KS4 students the opportunity to work on their projects at lunchtimes and after school.

In **Drama** Students will focus on developing skills used in the Unit 1 and 2 examination, (a series of six lessons, based on an issue, which takes place in Year 11). The work will take the form of a 'guided' mock examination, during which students will learn staging technique, acting methodology and practice. Additionally, students will explore various themes, through explorative drama activities. Group discussion skills will be focused on and students will be guided through coursework requirements. This project will be followed by a series of lessons, which will focus on devising skills, in preparation for the Unit 3 element in Year 11, (performance to an external examiner in groups). Various methodologies will be explored and students will have the opportunity to incorporate the theories and practices of Bertolt Brecht and Konstantin Stanislavski, (arguably the two most important theatre practitioners of the twentieth century), into the context of their devising tasks.

In Year 10 **Catering students** are concentrating on the food preparation and service aspect of the hospitality and catering industry in terms of:

- food and drink
- job roles, employment opportunities and relevant training.
- health safety and hygiene
- food preparation cooking and presentation
- nutrition and menu planning
- costing and portion control
- specialist equipment
- communication and record keeping
- environmental considerations.

In **History** we are studying medical developments in the Twentieth Century such as the discovery and use of penicillin. We will soon begin our specialist study of surgery. After Easter we will study Vietnam for our Controlled Assessment.

Year 10 **Geographers** spent last term working on settlements and the concept of urbanisation, students are now investigating tectonic hazards (especially earthquakes and volcanoes) and the human response to them. This will give them the opportunity to research up to date tectonic events that have taken place around the world.

All Year 10 and 11 **ICT** Students are following the OCR Nationals level 2 course.

Year 10 students are continuing to work on the mandatory Unit of work. Most students are developing business skills in areas such as: communicating effectively using email, creating business presentations as well as creating business documents.

**Leisure & Tourism:** The class are working towards their Summer GCSE exam. The course will enable them to have an understanding of the various tourism attraction features in the UK and other parts of the world. The course is a single award and upon doing their exam in June which weighs 40% they will start doing their coursework which weighs 60%.

**MFL** - Students studying **French** and/or **German** in Year 10 are currently covering the topic about the area where they live for their Speaking Controlled Assessment. This module focuses particularly on language needed when describing their town, its facilities as well as its advantages and disadvantages. Students will also be going on the topic of Health & sport.

All students are encouraged to use the [zut.org.uk](http://zut.org.uk) Website so to practice their listening, reading and writing skills. We offer further support every day at lunchtime and after school within the department.

Students studying **Spanish** in Year 10 are currently covering the topic on leisure in order to express opinions on their hobbies and the different activities they can undertake in that context. They will then go on to learning about the area where they live for their Speaking/writing Controlled Assessment. This module focuses particularly on language needed when describing their town, its facilities as well as its advantages and disadvantages.

All students are encouraged to use the [zut.org.uk](http://zut.org.uk) Website so as to practise their listening, reading and writing skills. We offer further support every day at lunchtime and after school within the department.

Students studying **Italian** in Year 10 will be covering the topic of Free Time for their GCSE Module 2. This Module focuses particularly on sports, hobbies, media and culture. Students are benefiting by also having formed a pen-friend link with a school in Italy.

Year 10 **Music**: Students continue to develop their practical musicianship. They learn and build on composing and performing techniques and aural discrimination. They extend their study of Western Music. They look at the other Areas of Study: Music in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Popular music in context and World music. They submit a full performance and composition in preparation for their year 10 mock in the summer term.

After school:

Monday - Rock School

Lunch time:

Monday – Chamber choir

Tuesday – Junior Choir

Wednesday – Concert Band (all wind players and percussionists)

Thursday – Senior Choir      Friday- Orchestra

In **P.E.** during Key Stage 4 students will be developing their skills, knowledge and understanding towards achieving their Junior Sports Award. The department has also arranged many netball, football and basketball fixtures with schools across the district and county to which parents are more than welcome to support. Extra curricular activities for netball, football and badminton will continue this term and are open for **all** students to attend. In year 10 BTEC pupils will be starting a new unit and will be completing a range of assessment tasks. During their practical lessons pupils will be improving their skill level in a wide range of sports.

### **Curriculum Support**

Students with LS on their timetable will receive 2.5 hours a week support with all the exam subjects on their timetable. There is no set work as it is a study lesson and students will have access to computers and resources to enable them to work as independently as possible on their tasks. Staff from Learning Support are available to support their learning.

### **Able, Gifted and Talented News**

This year we are continuing to focus on how provision can be developed further, on a daily basis, in the lessons. In their Schemes of Work, all departments have included challenging enrichment activities which aim to develop the Students' thinking skills as well as encourage them to become more independent learners. We have an outreach programme which enables us to liaise also with higher/ further education institutions. These give us the opportunity to send some of our students to local schools, Master classes, lectures and activity days.

**If you have any concerns or queries regarding the curriculum at St Mary's Catholic School, please do not hesitate to contact Mr H Jones, Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum & Attainment)**

